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INTRODUCTION.

IN a prefatory note to the first volume of Proceedings, issued in 1859, in accordance with a vote of the Society authorizing the publication of selections from its recent Proceedings, the Committee express a "hope that there will also be prepared, at some convenient and not very remote time, a digest or selection from the Society's records, which may give a connected history of its origin and early transactions, that the Society may thus acknowledge its indebtedness to the founders and early members, by whose exertions, so wisely applied, it was established on a basis which has secured its continual usefulness and increasing prosperity."

Although the publication of the Proceedings from the year 1855 to the present time has continued uninterruptedly until the volumes issued already number fourteen, it has never seemed practicable until now to enter upon the work of editing the earlier records, so much desired and so long deferred. At the annual meeting of the Society, in April, 1878, the Treasurer having previously expressed the opinion that the funds for publishing the Proceedings would now warrant the outlay for printing one or more volumes from the early records and contemporaneous documents, a vote was passed, appointing the undersigned a committee to prepare and print such volumes. Agreeably to this vote the Com-

mittee at once entered upon their work ; and we have now the pleasure of laying before the Society the result of our labors thus far, in one volume, which embraces the proceedings from Jan. 24, 1791, when the Society was instituted, to March 26, 1835, inclusive. A second volume, containing the proceedings to the annual meeting in April, 1855, but not including it, being the meeting at which the administration of Mr. Savage as President was concluded and that of Mr. Winthrop was begun, will soon follow.

In order that a minute history of the Society, so far as the records contain it, may be given, very little has been omitted. Where it was thought necessary to elucidate the text of the records, foot-notes have been added ; and letters, or extracts of letters, or other documents, have been introduced where they seemed useful in authenticating some relic bestowed, or in illustrating some subject referred to. Several papers on file, really belonging to the text, but not recorded, have been introduced into it, but always in such a way as to show what has been done.

It was thought best not to omit the earlier lists of donations which were spread upon the records, as they serve to show when and from whom some of the most valuable books, manuscripts, and ancient relics were received ; no sufficient record of these having been preserved in a printed form in the Society's publications. It was not, it may be added, until 1814 that the Society began to print the donations in the volumes of Collections.

It will be noticed that one of the purposes of the Society at its organization, not finally relinquished until many years afterward, was to promote the study of natural history. Indian relics, geological and mineralogical

specimens, animal and vegetable productions, — which included especially botanical specimens, — were received, and stored in the Society's Museum. A few of these relics yet remain, as reminders of the past. About the time of the Society's removal to its present location, in 1833, a large number of these specimens, appropriate for the purpose, were deposited in the cabinet of the Boston Society of Natural History. Subsequently, the Peabody Institute of Archæology and Ethnology received nearly all the remaining articles adapted to the purposes of its Museum.

Memoirs of deceased Resident Members that had not been written have been supplied. To the original number of ten members, one hundred and seventy-seven were added, by election, previously to the annual meeting of 1855, — a period of sixty-four years.* Of the fifty-nine then on the list of living members, only eighteen are now members of the Society, thirty-eight having died and three resigned since that date. The membership of forty-four had terminated by removal from the State, resignation, or other cause; eighty-four had died. Memoirs or notices of forty-five have already been published by the Society; and memoirs or notices of the remaining thirty-nine have been furnished by the Committee for publishing these volumes, and will be found under the years of their respective deaths.

To the Rev. Jeremy Belknap, D.D., is ascribed the honor of being the founder of this Society, — the oldest

* In this enumeration the names of John Pickering, who was first chosen a member Jan. 29, 1818, resigned May 5, 1831, was re-elected June 25, 1835, and died May 5, 1846, and John Gorham Palfrey, first chosen April 28, 1825, resigned June 28, 1838, re-elected June 30, 1842, and again resigned April 17, 1854, are counted twice.

Historical Society in the United States. In a sketch of his life and character, by the Rev. John Eliot, one of the five persons who first associated in its formation, written a few days after Dr. Belknap's death, he says: "The Historical Society have lost their most laborious and diligent member, and the founder of their institution." In a notice of Dr. Belknap, in his *Biographical Dictionary* (Boston, 1809), Dr. Eliot more particularly refers to the subject of the establishment of the Society.

"Of the Historical Society," he says, "he was not only a diligent and laborious member, but may be considered as the founder. While he was in New Hampshire he collected a great number of facts, dates, and circumstances, and most valuable compilation of manuscripts, which might give information and entertainment to persons who desire to know the history of their country. The letters which passed between the Admiral and General at Louisburg had been copied in a fair hand, to serve for a document of historic information. Colonel Sparhawk, who married the daughter of Sir William Pepperell, not only obliged Dr. Belknap with the perusal of them, when he was writing the *History of New Hampshire*, but expressed a desire that he would deposit them in some cabinet, where they might be read by others, and be useful in future. This idea led Dr. Belknap to devise a plan for multiplying copies of this and other manuscripts, as the only way to preserve them from fire or any accidents. He was the more impressed with the propriety of this, as he was witness to the destruction of Mr. Prince's valuable collection, which had been deposited in the steeple of the Old South Meeting-house. When he came to Boston, he suggested this to several of his acquaintance. In this town he met with a friend, Mr. Thomas Wallcut, a worthy citizen, now living, who had conceived the same idea of multiplying copies of old books, which he himself had of manuscripts, and who had made a great collection to keep them for the service of future generations. Dr. Belknap often mentioned to the writer of this memoir that what Mr. Wallcut suggested of preserving books, and his own desire to preserve the letters of Sir William Pepperell, were the foundation of the Historical Society,—an institution at first supported by the labors of a few, not sufficiently favored by the public, but now

claims a very considerable reputation among the literary institutions of America.”*

The late Rev. William Jenks, D.D., in 1837, wrote an account of the Society, prefixed to Vol. VII. of the third series of the Collections, which contains some details as to its origin, derived from the late Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris, D.D., who was chosen a member in 1792. An extract from Dr. Jenks’s account here follows:—

“It is difficult, if not impracticable, to discover at the present period the actual germ of the Society in the first thought, intention, or effort of any individual mind. Mr. Wallcut, the only survivor of the first ten who associated, does not sustain the claim made for him by the late Dr. Snow and by Dr. Allen.† The writer will, therefore, avail himself of the reminiscences and minutes of his valued friend, the Rev. Dr. Harris, better able, perhaps, than any one now living to ascend to the fountain head of the institution, having taken a very early and deep interest in its success.

“The Rev. Dr. Belknap has been uniformly regarded as a principal founder of this Society. His valuable ‘History of New Hampshire’ had been written under great disadvantages, and published with inadequate patronage. The labor of twenty-two years, as he states, was devoted to it; and in his last volume, published in 1793, nine years after the first, it is said that the sale of the preceding volumes had not defrayed the expense of publication. He had been at great cost, of time and labor at least, in amassing the materials for his work. Several of these were now his own; others were, of course, in public offices.

* Dr. Eliot’s modesty would have forbidden his putting forward any claims for himself. In a memoir of him, written by Professor McKean in 1813, and published in Vol. I. of the second series of the Collections, p. 221, he says: “To him and his friend, Dr. Belknap, may the origin and foundation of the Massachusetts Historical Society be principally ascribed.” In the next volume, at p. 284, the Society call the attention of the public to their “Historical Collections,” already published, and say: “The first series, consisting of ten volumes, was commenced in 1792, and closed in 1809. It is enriched, among other valuable articles, with many from the pens of Belknap and Eliot, *the founders of the Society.*”

† Dr. Snow, in his “History of Boston,” and Dr. Allen, in his “Biographical and Historical Dictionary,” ed. 1832, article, “Belknap,” probably only intended to repeat what Dr. Eliot had here written concerning Mr. Wallcut’s agency.

“ Dr. Belknap, by the interest of friends who knew his worth, had been transferred from his parish in New Hampshire, and had become a pastor in Boston; and he, having ‘engaged in preparing his American Biography, and Hon. George R. Minot,’ the elegant historian of the insurrection in Massachusetts, ‘who was occupied in writing a continuation of Hutchinson’s History, had frequent occasion, in 1789,’ observes Dr. Harris, ‘of conferring together with reference to materials to be consulted. They knew that the Rev. Dr. Eliot possessed the manuscript of Hubbard’s History; that Rev. Dr. Thacher had the Diary of his ancestor, a very early settler; and concluded that Hon. James Winthrop, of Cambridge, retained papers of his ancestor, the Governor, and of other branches of that celebrated family. To have a place of common deposit of such documents, for ready access and consultation, they proposed to these gentlemen to unite with them in contributing and collecting aids to their own labors and those of others.’ In 1790, therefore, a meeting was holden,—the day, however, is not given,—to agree on the object. Five gentlemen were present; and the Society, it appears, was then virtually formed. But, on separating, at the adjournment, each agreed to bring a friend to the next meeting. Accordingly, on the 24th of January of the next year, ten persons met, and embodied themselves with due formality. The Hon. Judge Tudor, Rev. Drs. Belknap, Thacher, and Eliot, and Judge Winthrop attended the first informal meeting; and at the embodying were present, beside them, Rev. Dr. Freeman, Judge Minot, Hon. W. Baylies, of Dighton, Judge Sullivan, and Mr. Wallcut.* Yet, in the printed paper inserted in their volumes, the ‘establishment’ of the Society is dated 1790.”

At the period following the War of the Revolution and the establishment of peace, there were undoubtedly many persons of historical tastes who were desirous of forming some association for securing a safe deposit of historical books and papers, and for multiplying copies of the latter by printing, and for promoting generally the objects of historical inquiry.

In a letter from Dr. Belknap to Ebenezer Hazard,

* Judge Minot and Dr. Baylies were not present at the meeting, Jan. 24, 1791, at which the Society was “instituted”; but they were regarded as present and associating.

then living in New York, dated at Boston, Aug. 10, 1789, he writes: —

“This day a Mr. Pintard called to see me. He says he is an acquaintance of yours, and wants to form a Society of Antiquaries, &c., &c. He seems to have a literary taste, is very loquacious and unreserved. Do give me his character.”*

This was John Pintard, of New York, then a young man of some thirty years of age, who subsequently became a Corresponding Member of the Society, the founder of the New York Historical Society, and who was an early Secretary of the Tammany Society in New York, dying, in 1844, at the great age of eighty-six. Hazard soon after replied to Dr. Belknap's inquiry; and, in a later letter, dated on the 5th of the following September, he says: —

“Mr. Pintard has mentioned to me his thoughts about an Antiquarian Society. The idea pleases me much. We shall have the plan upon paper one of these days, and you will doubtless be made acquainted with it. Mr. P. has lately purchased a very large collection of pamphlets, in volumes, relating to the American Revolution. It was made by Dr. Chandler, of Elizabeth Town, who was in England all the war. It is valuable, as is Mr. P.'s library.”†

In the following year, 1790, Dr. Belknap again writes to Mr. Hazard on the same subject, under date of the 27th of August: —

“When Mr. Pintard was here,” he says, “he strongly urged the forming a Society of American Antiquaries. Several other gentlemen have occasionally spoken to me on the same subject. Yesterday I was in company where it was again mentioned, and it was wished that a beginning could be made. This morning I have written something, and communicated it to the gentleman who spoke of it yesterday. How it will issue time must determine. If it should come to any thing, you

* Belknap Papers, II. 157.

† Ibid. 165.

shall hear farther. Say nothing of it to Mr. Morse at present, nor to any other person." *

The paper which Dr. Belknap wrote on the morning of the 27th of August, 1790, was handed down among his manuscripts in this Society, and was labelled, "Plan of an Antiquarian Society, August, 1790." It is here copied, and a heliotype *fac-simile* is also given, showing all the erasures and interlineations.

"Plan of an Antiquarian Society, August, 1790.

"A society to be formed, consisting of not more than *seven at first*, for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and communicating the antiquities of America.

"Admissions to be made in such manner as the associated shall judge proper. The number of members to be limited.

"A President, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Cabinet-Keeper to be appointed.

"Each member to pay at his admission and yearly. This and other money to be applied to promoting the objects of the Society.

"Each member, on his admission, shall engage to use his utmost endeavors to collect and communicate to the Society manuscripts, printed books and pamphlets, historical facts, biographical anecdotes, observations in natural history, specimens of natural and artificial curiosities, and any other matters which may elucidate the natural and political history of America from the earliest times to the present day; and

"All communications which are thought worthy of being preserved shall be entered at large in the books of the Society with an index, and the originals kept on file.

"Letters shall be written to gentlemen in each of the United States, requesting them to form similar societies; and a correspondence shall be kept up between them for the purpose of communicating discoveries and improvements to each other.

"Each Society through the United States shall be desired from time to time to publish such of their communications as they may

* Belknap Papers, II. 231.

PLAN OF AN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, AUGUST, 1790.

A Society to be formed consist of not more than seven at first - for the purpose of collecting, preserving & communicating Historical & Antiquities of America.

Admissions to be made in such manner as the associated shall judge proper. The number of members to be limited -

Read, & Resolved, & Very
A President, ~~Librarian~~ ^{Secretary} Librarian & Cabinet keeper to be appointed

Each Member to pay ~~dollars~~ at his admission & yearly.
This & other money to be ~~devoted to the purchasing of books & other~~ applied to promoting the ~~interests of the~~ objects of the Society.

Each Member on his admission shall engage to use his utmost endeavors to collect & communicate to the Society ~~Librarian~~ Manuscripts, printed books, & pamphlets, historical facts, biographical anecdotes, observations in natural history, specimens of natural & artificial Curiosities & any other matters which may elucidate the natural, & political history of America from the earliest times to the present day &

All communications which are thought worthy of being presented shall be ~~printed~~ ^{to an index} the multiplication of copies being entered as large in the book of the Society & the originals kept on file.

~~Publications shall be made for~~

Letters shall be written to gentlemen in each of the ~~united~~ ^{states} requesting them to form similar societies & a correspondence shall be kept up between of them for the purpose of communicating discoveries and information to each other

Each Society through the united States shall be desired from time
to time to publish such of their Communications as they may
judge proper, ~~both~~ and all publications shall be made on
~~of some paper~~ paper in page of y^e same size if they may
be bound together - Each Society so publishing shall be
desired to send ^{gratuitously} to each of the other Societies ~~one~~ dozen Copies
at least of each publication

Quarterly meetings to be held for the purpose of commun-
icating - & in this State the quarterly meetings shall be held
on the days next following those ~~established~~ appointed for the
meetings of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

When y^e Societys funds can afford it Salaries shall be granted
to the Secretaries & other Officers -

Persons to compose the first meeting

~~David Johnson Esq~~

W^m Tudor Esq

Rev John Eliot

Rev Peter Thacher

James Winthrop Esq

John Belknap

Massachusetts Society
Aug 1790

judge proper; and all publications shall be made on paper and in pages of the same size, that they may be bound together; and each Society so publishing shall be desired to send gratuitously to each of the other Societies one dozen copies at least of each publication.

“Quarterly meetings to be held for the purpose of communicating; and, in this State, the quarterly meetings shall be held on the days next following those appointed for the meetings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

“When the Society’s funds can afford it, salaries shall be granted to the Secretaries and other officers.

“Persons to compose the first meeting: William Tudor, Esq., Rev. John Eliot, Rev. Peter Thacher, James Winthrop, Esq., Jere. Belknap.”

On the 14th of September following, Dr. Belknap thus writes to Mr. Hazard:—

“No more as yet about the Antiquarian Society. The gentleman who seemed so zealous, as I wrote you, has been ever since overwhelmed with business in the Supreme Court; and I have not once seen him, for I seldom attend courts of any kind.”*

This gentleman, so busy in the Supreme Court, was probably Mr. Tudor, whose name, on Dr. Belknap’s paper, stands at the head of the five “persons to compose the first meeting,” who, before the close of the year, became “associated,” and agreed to form a society. We have no means of knowing whether the names on this paper were selected by Dr. Belknap himself, or by conference with one or more of the gentlemen named; most likely the latter. As Dr.

* Belknap Papers, II. 233.

On the 3d of October, Hazard writes from New York: “I like Pintard’s idea of a Society of American Antiquaries; but where will you find a sufficiency of members of suitable abilities and leisure? Where will jarring interests suffer the Musæum to be kept?” What Mr. Pintard’s idea of a society was we do not know. It is not improbable that he wished to form a general society, with members to co-operate throughout the country, rather than a local or State society.

Belknap drew up this rough draft himself, and entered the names upon it, he, of course, placed his own name at the foot. Neither do we know precisely when, during the remainder of this year, those five persons met and agreed to associate for the purpose indicated; nor when the five additional associates were selected, previous to the first regular meeting at which the Society was instituted. No records of any meetings in this inchoate state are preserved.

In the beginning of the first Letter-book of the Society, is the following, in Dr. Belknap's hand:—

"A Catalogue of the Members of the Historical Society, in the order in which they were elected.

" William Tudor	}	First associated 1790.
Rev. Jeremy Belknap		
Rev. Peter Thacher		
James Winthrop, Esq.		
Rev. John Eliot	}	Elected by the first five, each nominating one."
Hon. James Sullivan, Esq.		
George R. Minot, Esq.		
Rev. James Freeman		
William Baylies, Esq.		
Thomas Wallcut		

Then follow other names, of both Resident and Corresponding Members, in the order of their election, covering a period of seven or eight years.

As has been already shown, the agreement to form a society was made before the close of 1790. Indeed, its earliest book-plate reads that the Society was "established" in 1790. The first meeting, at which the Society was instituted,—that is to say, that at which its constitution was adopted and its officers chosen, and a record made of these doings; that which the founders "agreed to consider as the first meeting,"—was held on

*A Catalogue of the Members of the Historical Society
in the order in which they were elected.*

William Tudor Esq
Rev Jeremy Belknap
Rev Peter Thacher
James Winthrop Esq
Rev John Eliot

} First associated 1790.

Hon James Sullivan Esq
George R Minot Esq
Rev James Freeman
William Baylies Esq
Thomas Walcutt

} elected by the first 5 —
each nominating one

Hon David Sewall Esq
Isaac Lothrop Esq
Richard Cranch Esq, (declined)
John Davis Esq
Rev Manasseh Cutter
Hon William Heath (declined)
Dr Aaron Dexter
Daniel Davis Esq

the 24th of January, 1791, at the house of the Hon. William Tudor, in Court Street.

The Constitution, substantially as adopted at the first meeting, was drawn up by Mr. Minot, and now exists in his handwriting, as far as and including article eight; while the remaining articles, nine to twelve, are in the hand of Judge Sullivan, the first President, who also amended parts of that drawn by Mr. Minot. A fair copy was afterward made by Mr. Wallcut, the first Recording Secretary, before it was transcribed by him into the book of records, and now exists in his beautiful handwriting.

“The Historical Society” was the name adopted at the institution, changed to the “Massachusetts Historical Society” in the act of incorporation adopted in February, 1794. The title-pages of the first and second volumes of the Collections, dated 1792 and 1793, bear, however, the more full name, as do the serials of Collections issued in those years.

Writing to Mr. Hazard on the 19th of February, 1791, Dr. Belknap says:—

“We have now formed our Society, and it is dubbed, not the Antiquarian, but the ‘Historical, Society.’ It consists at present of only 8, and is limited to 25. We intend to be an *active*, not a *passive*, literary body; not to lie waiting, like a bed of oysters, for the tide (of communication) to flow in upon us, but to *seek and find*, to *preserve* and *communicate*, literary intelligence, especially in the historical way. We are not, however, quite ripe for action. Will it suit you to be a Corresponding Member? If you say yes, I will propose you.”*

* Belknap Papers, II. 245. In a letter from Mr. Pintard to Dr. Belknap, of the 6th of April, 1791, he writes: “I wish to hear whether your Antiquarian Society is commencing, or its prospects. An account will be given in some future magazine of our Tammany Society (we have lately uncanonized him). This being a strong national society, I engrafted an antiquarian scheme of a museum upon it. It makes a small progress, with a small fund, and may possibly succeed. We have got a tolerable collection of pamphlets, mostly modern,

It is singular that Dr. Belknap should here make two errors: first, in saying that the Society consisted then of only eight; and second, that it was limited to twenty-five. It was limited to *thirty* Resident and *thirty* Corresponding Members. The number of members at its institution was ten. Only eight, however, were present at the first meeting: but Messrs. Baylies and Minot, who were absent, were regarded as present and associating; and the latter was at that meeting chosen a member of the Standing Committee. It should be added that twenty-five Resident Members seem to have been the number at first resolved upon, as is shown in Mr. Minot's draft of the Constitution, subsequently amended to thirty.*

By the rules of the Society, as first adopted, there were to be four stated meetings each year, — on the

with some history, of which I will also send you some day an abstract. If your Society succeeds, we will open a regular correspondence and interchange of communications, duplicates, &c. If my plan once strikes root, it will thrive."

On the 12th November, 1791, he writes: "I also received the proposals for the American Apollo. I think it a good thing, and will forward it all in my power. I have obtained twenty subscribers, and hope to do better."

* On a fly-leaf in the beginning of the second volume of the Society's manuscript records, the first entry in which is "December 23, 1795," the following is written by Dr. Freeman, then Recording Secretary, and one of the original ten founders, so to speak, of the Society: —

"List of Resident Members of the Massachusetts Historical Society, with the dates of their election.

"1790. The Society was planned by the following persons: Rev. Jeremy Belknap, D.D., Rev. John Eliot, D.D., Rev. Peter Thacher, D.D., and William Tudor, Esq., of Boston, and James Winthrop, Esq., of Cambridge.

"These gentlemen associated with them five other persons; viz., William Baylies, Esq., of Dighton, and Rev. James Freeman, Hon. George Richards Minot, Esq., Hon. James Sullivan, Esq., and Mr. Thomas Wallcut, of Boston.

"1791, Jan. 24. A majority of the above-named persons met together and organized the Society."

The names in the above summary by Dr. Freeman are arranged in alphabetical order; then follow the names of subsequent members for a considerable period, in the order of their election.

last Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October, — and provision made for occasional meetings.* After the election of officers at the first meeting, the first vote passed provided that the Standing Committee “be requested to inquire what collections can be made for the Society, and a suitable place to deposit the same.” At that meeting Mr. Sullivan, the President, presented to the Society a folio blank volume for their records; the Recording Secretary was desired to attend the sales of books from time to time, and buy such as came within the views of the Society.

We have already seen that the first meeting of the Society was held at the house of Mr. Tudor. At the second meeting — which was a special meeting, held at the house of Judge Sullivan, the President, on the 9th of April — the Committee reported that they had not been able to procure a suitable room to deposit the library of the Society, and Mr. Tudor was added to the Committee. A vote was also adopted appointing a committee to wait upon the Governor and the Lieutenant-Governor, and acquaint them with the institution, the views and designs of the Society, and to request their assistance. The committee who were appointed at the last meeting “to inquire what collections could be made towards forming an historical library, delivered in lists from each member, as on file.” These lists, which embrace a large number of valuable books and manuscripts, particularly those which came from Dr. Belknap, are preserved in the Society’s Cabinet, and are printed in this volume.

By the 30th day of June, when the third meeting of

* During the first year, 1791, the meetings were very irregularly held. They were all special or adjourned meetings, and not one was held at the time appointed for the stated or quarterly meetings.

the Society was called (a special meeting), an apartment had been procured in the building called the "Manufactory House," "an handsome, large, brick building," occupied by the Massachusetts Bank, situated in Long-acre Street, now Tremont Street, where Hamilton Place now is,* and the Society met there, for the first time, on that day. The first vote passed at that meeting directed "that the Treasurer be desired to purchase twelve chairs (Windsor, green, elbow); a pine table, painted, with draw and lock and key; an inkstand, &c." These green Windsor chairs are yet in the Society's possession, in good preservation. They cost, altogether, £4 16s. 0*d.*, or sixteen dollars. The table, lock and key, and inkstand, cost about \$3.20; a small letter-book cost 3s. 4*d.*, or fifty-six cents.

We will so far depart from the chronological order of the narrative as to describe here, in a few words, the several apartments occupied by the Society, till their removal to the present location on Tremont Street.

After the Society had occupied the room in the Bank building about one year, it was represented to them that the stockholders could no longer accommodate the Society. The Standing Committee, with Messrs. Eliot and Freeman, were thereupon appointed a committee to procure another room for the Library and Museum, and to remove to it the property of the Society. This was done; and, on the 31st of July, 1792, the Society held their stated meeting for the first time in an apartment in Faneuil Hall, being the north-west corner of the attic; a place, says Dr. Harris, "as retired and recondite as explorers into the recesses of antiquity could think of visiting." Here they remained till June, 1794, when the

* See a description of this building in Collections, III. 252, 253.

Society held the first meeting in their new room — the upper room over the Arch — in the Tontine Crescent, on the south side of Franklin Place, the premises having been a gift to the Society by the generosity of Messrs. Scollay, Bulfinch, and Vaughan, of which a full account will be found at pp. 58 and 65 of this volume. The Society continued to occupy the room over the Arch for thirty-nine years, or till 1833, when they removed to their present location.

At the fourth meeting of the Society, in October, 1791, Messrs. Belknap and Eliot, who had been appointed to draw up rules and regulations for the Library and Museum, reported a list of twelve articles, which, after some amendment, were adopted. The original rough draft of these rules, in Dr. Eliot's hand, is preserved in the Library; and the finished paper, as amended by Dr. Belknap, exists in his hand. At an adjourned meeting, December 23, Messrs. Eliot and Tudor, a committee previously appointed, reported a list of rules to define the duties and powers of the Standing Committee, which were adopted. A draft of this paper in Mr. Minot's hand is also preserved.

"Their literary materials increasing," says Dr. Jenks, in the memoir quoted above, "they were anxious to present them to the public in a permanent form. But it was 'the day of small things,' and the means were wanting for publication. In this emergency it was proposed by Dr. Belknap, in the autumn of 1791, to encourage a periodical contemplated by two young men, just commencing the business of printing. Accordingly, in a sheet attached to *The American Apollo*, which made its appearance weekly in 1792, commencing with the year, the publications of the Society began."

The records of the Society give the necessary details respecting the arrangements made with the two young

men referred to, — Joseph Belknap, the oldest son of Dr. Belknap, and Alexander Young, the father of our late associate, the Rev. Alexander Young, D.D., — who proposed, with the assistance of the Society, to begin the publication of the Apollo; to appropriate generally from four to eight pages of the said paper to such publications as the Historical Society shall choose to make; that this part of the paper shall be paged separately; and that fifty copies of the Apollo shall be presented to the Society. On the 24th of October, 1791, the agreement was completed, and Messrs. Belknap, Eliot, and Freeman were appointed a committee to superintend the publications of the Society.

The following “Circular Letter,” drawn up by Dr. Belknap, and dated Nov. 1, 1791, was issued previously to the publication of the Apollo, and a proposal for the printing of this paper was enclosed in it: —

“Circular Letter of the Historical Society.”*

“SIR, — A society has lately been instituted in this town, called the Historical Society, the professed design of which is to collect, preserve, and communicate materials for a complete history of this country, and accounts of all valuable efforts of human ingenuity and industry, from the beginning of its settlement. In pursuance of this plan, they have already amassed a large quantity of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts, and are still in search of more, — a catalogue of which will be printed for the information of the public.

“They have also given encouragement to the publication of a weekly paper, to be called The American Apollo, in which will be given the result of their inquiries into the natural, political, and ecclesiastical history of this country. A proposal for the printing of this paper is here enclosed to you, and it is requested that you would promote subscriptions for it, and contribute to its value and importance by attention to the articles annexed. The Society beg leave to de-

* The original manuscript, in Dr. Belknap's hand, is on file.



CIRCULAR LETTER,
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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A SOCIETY has lately been instituted in this town, called the HISTORICAL SOCIETY; the professed design of which is, to collect, preserve and communicate, materials for a complete history of this country, and accounts of all valuable efforts of human ingenuity and industry, from the beginning of its settlement. In pursuance of this plan, they have already amassed a large quantity of books, pamphlets and manuscripts; and are still in search of more: A catalogue of which will be printed for the information of the public.

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beg

2
beg leave to depend on your obliging answer to these heads of inquiry, when leisure and opportunity will permit.

YOUR letters addressed, free of expense, to the subscriber, will be gratefully received, and duly noticed in the Society's publications; and you will have the satisfaction of contributing to the general stock of knowledge, with which they hope to entertain the public.

In the name, and by order of the Society,

JEREMY BELKNAP, *Corresponding Sec.*

Summer Street, Boston,

November 1, 1791

Articles on which the Society request information.

1. THE time when your town was granted and incorporated; its Indian name; when the settlement began; whether it was interrupted, and by what means; to what Colony or County it was first annexed; and if there have been any alterations, what they are, and when made.
2. THE exploits, labors and sufferings of the inhabitants in war; particular accounts of devastations, deaths, captivities and redemptions,
3. DIVISIONS of your town into parishes and precincts, or the erection of new towns within the former limits.
4. TIME of gathering churches of every denomination; names of the several Ministers; the times of their settlement, removal and death; and their age at the time of their death.
5. BIOGRAPHICAL anecdotes of persons in your town or within your knowledge, who have been remarkable for ingenuity, enterprise, literature, or any other valuable accomplishment; an account of their literary productions, and if possible, copies of them.
6. TOPOGRAPHICAL description of your town and its vicinity; mountains, rivers, ponds, vegetable productions; remarkable

remarkable falls, caverns, minerals, stones, fossils, pigments, medicinal and poisonous substances, their uses and antidotes.

7. THE former and present state of cultivation, and your thoughts on farther improvements, either in respect to agriculture, roads or canals.

8. MONUMENTS and relicks of the ancient Indians; number and present state of any remaining Indians among you.

9. SINGULAR instances of longevity and fecundity from the first settlement, to the present time.

10. OBSERVATIONS on the weather, diseases, and the influence of the climate, or of particular situations, employments and aliments, especially the effect of spirituous liquors on the human constitution.

11. ACCURATE bills of mortality, specifying ages and casualties, the proportion of births and deaths; and the increase or decrease of population.

12. ACCOUNTS of manufactures and fisheries, and thoughts on the farther improvement of them.

13. MODES of education, private or public; what encouragement is given to schools, and what is done to advance literature; whether you have a social library, what is the number of books, and of what value.

14. WHAT remarkable events have befallen your town, or particular families or persons at any time.

P. S. ANY books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps or plans which may conduce to the accomplishment of the views of the Society; and any natural or artificial productions which may enlarge its museum, will be accepted with thanks.

THE library of the Society is deposited in an apartment of the Massachusetts Bank. Any person desirous of making a search among the books or manuscripts, may have access to it, under such regulations, and at such hours as may be known by applying to any one of the members,

pend on your obliging answer to these heads of inquiry, when leisure and opportunity will permit.

“Your letters, addressed, free of expense, to the subscriber, will be gratefully received, and duly noticed in the Society’s publications; and you will have the satisfaction of contributing to the general stock of knowledge with which they hope to entertain the public.

“In the name and by order of the Society.

“JEREMY BELKNAP, *Corresponding Sec.*

“SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, NOV. 1, 1791.

“*Articles on which the Society request information.*

“1. The time when your town was granted and incorporated; its Indian name; when the settlement began; whether it was interrupted, and by what means; to what colony or county it was first annexed; and, if there have been any alterations, what they are, and when made.

“2. The exploits, labors, and sufferings of the inhabitants in war; particular accounts of devastations, deaths, captivities, and redemptions.

“3. Divisions of your town into parishes and precincts, or the erection of new towns within the former limits.

“4. Time of gathering churches of every denomination; names of the several ministers; the times of their settlement, removal, and death; and their age at the time of their death.

“5. Biographical anecdotes of persons in your town, or within your knowledge, who have been remarkable for ingenuity, enterprise, literature, or any other valuable accomplishment; an account of their literary productions, and, if possible, copies of them.

“6. Topographical description of your town and its vicinity,—mountains, rivers, ponds, vegetable productions, remarkable falls, caverns, minerals, stones, fossils, pigments, medicinal and poisonous substances, their uses and antidotes.

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“The Library of the Society is deposited in an apartment of the Massachusetts Bank. Any person desirous of making a search among the books or manuscripts may have access to it, under such regulations and at such hours as may be known by applying to any one of the members.”*

The following is the title-page of the prospectus of Messrs. Belknap & Young for publishing “The American Apollo,” enclosed in Dr. Belknap’s Circular, annexed to which is their Conditional Proposal:—

“To all the Friends of Science, Arts, Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce. Proposal of Joseph Belknap and Alexander Young for printing a weekly paper, to be entitled THE AMERICAN APOLLO, containing the publications of the Historical Society, Political and Commercial Intelligence, and other entertaining matter. Printed at Boston, Massachusetts, by J. Belknap and A. Young. MDCCXCI.

* Copies of the Circular Letter are very rare, — but three or four are known. And of the prospectus for publishing the Apollo, only one copy — that in the possession of the Society — is known to the writer.

FAC-SIMILE OF TITLE PAGE OF "PROPOSAL."

*To all the Friends of Science, Arts, Agriculture.
Manufactures and Commerce.*

P R O P O S A L

OF

Joseph Belknap & Alexander Young.

FOR PRINTING A WEEKLY PAPER,

TO BE ENTITLED

T H E

American Apollo,

*Containing the Publications of the HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, Political and Commercial Intelligence;
and other entertaining Matter.*



PRINTED AT BOSTON, (*Massachusetts*)
BY J. BELKNAP AND A. YOUNG
MDCCXCI.

"Conditional Proposal.

"I. Each number will contain sixteen large demy octavo pages, stitched in a cover, and will be published every Friday.

"II. From four to eight pages of each number will be generally appropriated to the publications which shall be made by the Historical Society.*

"III. The remaining pages will be filled with essays, moral, political, and poetical, and the daily occurrences in the natural, civil, and commercial world.

"IV. The cover, which will make four additional pages, will be reserved for advertisements, for which they will be much obliged to their mercantile friends and others.

"V. The pages will be regularly numbered, and a title-page and index will be presented with the last number of every year, gratis.

"VI. The price to subscribers will be two dollars per annum, exclusive of postage. Each subscriber is requested to pay one half dollar at the time of subscribing, and the like sum at the expiration of every quarter of a year, commencing from the publication of the first number, so that every subscriber may be one half dollar in advance, for which he may depend on receiving the papers punctually as they are published.

"VII. If a sufficient number of subscribers to defray the expense are returned by the 20th of December next, the publication will commence on the first Friday of January, 1792."

"Subscriptions will be received by the several members of the Historical Society, and by the following printers and booksellers: viz., Mr. B. Guild, Colonel J. Boyle, Mr. J. White, Mr. S. Hall, Mr. B. Larkin, Mr. D. West, Messrs. Thomas & Andrews, Mr. J. Thomas, and Mr. E. Larkin, jun., in Boston; Mr. J. Dabney and Mr. T. C. Cushing, Salem; B. Emerson, Esq., postmaster,

* "A society has been lately established in this town, called the Historical Society, the professed design of which is to collect, preserve, and communicate materials for a complete history of this country, from the beginning of its settlement; and the said Society has encouraged the publication of this weekly paper, for the purpose of communicating the result of their inquiries.

"The present members are —

"The Hon. JAMES SULLIVAN, *President.*
WILLIAM BAYLIES, Esq.
REV. JEREMY BELKNAP.
REV. JOHN ELIOT.
REV. JAMES FREEMAN.

GEORGE R. MINOT, Esq.
REV. PETER THACHER.
WILLIAM TUDOR, Esq.
MR. THOMAS WALLCUT.
JAMES WINTHROP, Esq."

Newburyport; J. Libbey, Esq., postmaster, Portsmouth; I. Thomas, Esq., Worcester; Mr. E. Weld, Springfield; and by many other gentlemen in various parts of the United States. Also, at the office of the Publishers, in Boston.

“Subscribers are requested to put down their names, titles, and where their papers may be sent.”

The Circular Letter, with a few changes which circumstances required, was also reprinted in 1793, and prefixed to the first serial for January of that year. A new Circular, it may be added, was issued in the serial for June, 1794, but was designed for, and was prefixed to, Vol. IV., issued in the following year. This paper now exists in the handwriting of Dr. Belknap. It was reissued in a sheet as a circular, some ten years later, and also prefixed to Vol. I. of the second series of Collections, published in 1814.

An “Introductory Address from the Historical Society to the Public” was prefixed to the first number of the Apollo, immediately following the “Constitution of the Historical Society.” This admirable paper could proceed from no other pen than that of Dr. Belknap, and would find a fitting place in this introduction, were it not so easily accessible as prefixed to the first volume of the Society’s Collections.

The following is the title on the cover of each number of the Apollo: “The AMERICAN APOLLO, containing the Publications of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Essays, Moral, Political, and Poetical, and the Daily Occurrences in the Natural, Civil, and Commercial World. . . . Printed at Boston, by Belknap & Young, State Street.” In the centre of the cover of all the numbers, except the first, is a figure designed for Apollo, encircled with a scroll, on which is this motto, *Scientiæ pater, Musarum princeps*. These numbers, without the covers, contain from eight to twelve pages each, in 8vo, besides

the publications of the Historical Society, which were stitched into the same covers, making from four to eight pages in addition. The first number was dated Friday, Jan. 6, 1792, and the last issued in this form, Friday, Sept. 28, 1792, — being in all thirty-nine numbers.*

In these thirty-nine numbers of the *Apollo* were issued two hundred and eight pages only of the first volume of the Society's Collections. The *Apollo* was then continued in a newspaper form, having no further connection with the Society's publications; † and

* Nos. 1 to 19, inclusive, of the *Apollo* were printed by Belknap & Young, whose copartnership was dissolved May 16, 1792. No. 20, for May 18, was printed by Joseph Belknap. No. 21 was printed by Belknap & Hall, who continued thereafter to print the *Apollo* until the dissolution of their copartnership, July 3, 1794, advertised in their paper of July 10. The first thirteen numbers of this octavo periodical were issued in covers of pink-colored paper; all the others of white paper. It consisted in all of thirty-nine numbers, of four hundred and sixteen pages, and is called Vol. I. The *Apollo* was then continued in a newspaper form, the first number of which was published Oct. 5, 1792, beginning Vol. II., which consisted of fifty-two numbers. The first number of Vol. III. was issued Oct. 4, 1793; and that volume was not closed until Dec. 25, 1794, and contained sixty-five numbers. With that volume the *Apollo* probably ceased. The paper was printed about six months by Joseph Belknap after his copartnership with Hall had ceased, say from July 10 to Dec. 25, 1794. The three volumes contained in all one hundred and fifty-six numbers. A copy of Vols. II. and III., bound together, is in the library of the Boston Athenæum.

† The following is from the records of the Society at a special meeting, on the 14th of September, 1792: —

"It appearing to the Society that the publication of the *Apollo* will not be continued with the papers of the Society annexed in the usual manner,

"*Voted*, That Dr. Belknap, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Eliot, Mr. Tudor, and Mr. Minot be a committee to consider of the best manner of publishing the papers of the Society in future, and the lowest rate at which the printing business can be done, and report."

At a special meeting, on the 19th of September, "the Committee appointed to consider of the best mode of publishing the papers of the Society in future made report, whereupon it was

"*Voted*, That if Messrs. Belknap and Hall will publish the papers of the Society in a pamphlet, monthly, to consist of twenty-four pages, the Society will take fifty copies in sheets, at two pence one farthing a sheet; that the number of copies to be struck off be three hundred; and that, in addition to the

the Collections were published separately, agreeably to the following announcement "to the customers of the American Apollo," on the cover of Nos. 38 and 39, dated Sept. 21, 1792:—

"It is our design, at the commencement of the next quarter of the Apollo, to change the present plan of it. . . . The Apollo will be printed on large demy paper, and contain matter usual to a newspaper; omitting the publications of the Historical Society, or the *First Part*, which will be published in monthly numbers, stitched in blue, and to contain twenty-four pages of the present size; commencing from the first Friday in October, and published the first Friday of each successive month, when they will be forwarded to our customers, provided they do not signify to the contrary. They will be afforded at the low rate of *one shilling and sixpence* per quarter."

The first volume of the Collections, after the Apollo was discontinued in its original form, was completed in *four* numbers, stitched in blue covers, and lettered September (which must have been antedated), October, November, and December, 1792, and entitled "Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, . . . printed at the Apollo Press in Boston, by Belknap & Hall." These four numbers contained together eighty pages, the volume concluding with p. 288. One sheet of title-page and contents, in addition, was placed at the end of the last number.

Vols. II. and III. were published in like manner, in twelve monthly numbers, in 1793 and 1794, usually in blue covers, and from the same press,—the last six numbers of Vol. III. bearing the imprint of Joseph Belknap, "Printer to the Historical Society," his co-

fifty copies above mentioned, the Society will take all such copies as may remain unsold at the rate aforesaid, for the term of one quarter of a year from the first Friday of October next.

"Mr. Belknap appeared, and agreed to the above terms in behalf of himself and Mr. Hall, his partner."

partnership with Thomas Hall having been dissolved on the 3d of July, 1794. The issue for January, 1793, is called on the cover "No. 1"; that for February, "No. 5," which, if intended to include those issued the previous year, should have been No. 6. That for March is "No. 6"; and the numbers thereafter continue in regular order to the end of the third volume, the last of which is "No. 27." Three numbers of Vol. II. and one number of Vol. III. contained a small portion of the succeeding volumes, the contents of each number being printed on the cover.

Vols. IV. and V. were published — the former in 1795, and the latter in 1798 — in four parts or numbers, also stitched in blue covers, and were printed by Samuel Hall, No. 53 Cornhill, Boston. Vol. V. was the last issued in numbers.

The Act of Incorporation, Laws, Circular Letter, &c., with an Appendix, were issued in the June number of Vol. III., for 1794, but intended as a part of Vol. IV., where they may be found. These documents were also issued, from the same types, in a separate pamphlet, by Joseph Belknap, at the Apollo Press, on the cover of which was a list of "Officers of the Society for the current year, 1794," and also of the Corresponding Members.

For want of sufficient means the Society labored under great embarrassment in respect to their publications, the multiplying of documents being one of the purposes for which the Society was established. When the third volume, which was issued in monthly parts, was drawing to a close, in December, 1794, the printer and publisher, Joseph Belknap, notified the Society that

he could not execute the business of the Society beyond the present year upon the terms of the existing contract. An agreement was thereupon made with another printer for three months only, in which time he was to print one number "at the sole risk and expense of the Society." * This contract was renewed from time to time

* Soon after the Society had been notified by Joseph Belknap that he could not continue the business under the then existing contract, and the Society had concluded to publish their Collections (experimentally) at their own risk and expense, Mr. Belknap addressed a letter to the Committee having the matter in charge, giving a history of his connection with the publications of the Society from the beginning. This letter is on file, and deserves to be noticed here. He says that the proposals issued by Belknap & Young — about the beginning of the year 1792 — for publishing the Historical and Topographical Collections of the Society met with an uncommon degree of encouragement, the idea being novel and interesting; that the subscribers, in the course of the first quarter, amounted to nearly twelve hundred. "The Collections were issued; but, from an almost universal misconception of the proposal (the public in general expecting a regular history of America), the subscribers were disappointed in their expectations, and, before the end of the second quarter, the number was reduced more than one half. In order, however, to give all possible satisfaction, it was found necessary that the department for intelligence, which had made part of the original pamphlet, should be enlarged. This was accordingly done, and separated from the Collections." That is, "The American Apollo" was enlarged from an octavo to a newspaper form, and the Collections were issued separately in monthly parts, as has been elsewhere described. The subscriptions, however, continued to decrease. In the mean time, his partner, Mr. Young, having been discouraged by the ill success of the undertaking, Mr. Belknap, in May, 1792, purchased his interest for a small sum, and became sole proprietor. He soon afterward entered into copartnership with Mr. Thomas Hall, with whom he continued the publication of the Collections for more than two years, but under great discouragements. In July, 1794, he purchased the interest of Mr. Hall, and again became sole proprietor. The number of subscribers continuing to decrease, being now but little more than three hundred, and the payments being very poor, he found he must necessarily be a loser if he continued the publication at his own risk. "I accordingly," he says, "communicated my intention of discontinuing, at your last meeting; and since find, by my best calculations, that I am a loser of at least four hundred dollars for the three years which I have published the Collections." Learning now that the Society intended to continue the publications at their own risk, he thinks he has a right in all candor to expect the offer of the printing upon the same terms that any other printer would do the work. Intimating that there had been complaints of incorrectness in his work, he pleads extenuating circumstances, adding, more-

during the year 1795, till four serials, comprising altogether about the same number of pages as the previous volume, were published, completing the fourth volume.

In the mean time, the Society "appointed a committee to investigate and report measures to increase the means of the Society to publish their Collections," and Dr. Belknap was its chairman. This appointment, made in July, 1795, was supplemented, in November, by another vote of similar import, providing, among other things, that an Address to the public be prepared, to be published in the newspapers. The following draft of a paper, in Dr. Belknap's hand, bearing no date, but written during this period, is on file:—

"The Committee of Publications, to whom was referred the consideration of some mode to increase subscription for the Collections, have attended the service, and report the annexed proposal, which, if approved by the Society, they recommend to be printed, and that each member, both domestic and corresponding, be furnished with one or more copies, with a strict injunction to do his utmost to procure subscriptions, and report his success at the next meeting, either quarterly or adjourned. And if this report be not accepted, or if, on trial, it shall be found insufficient, then the Committee further advise that the Rev. Mr. Harris be added to the Committee, and that a consultation be had with him and with the proprietors of the 'Massachusetts Magazine,' respecting an union of the Society's publications with that work, and that a further report be made after such consultation.

over, that some of the copy sent to the press was imperfectly prepared. He promises now to give satisfaction, or to relinquish at the end of the quarter one half the contract price.

As has been already seen, the Society made a contract with another printer, Mr. Samuel Hall (not Joseph Belknap's late partner, whose name was Thomas Hall), an excellent printer, whose career is sufficiently illustrated by Mr. J. T. Buckingham, in his "Specimens of Newspaper Literature," I. 217-288. Mr. Hall continued to do the printing of the Collections for a number of years,—four volumes bearing his name as printer.

Joseph Belknap seems not to have been particularly successful in his business ventures. He died on the 2d of August, 1800, in Petersburg, Virginia, in the 31st year of his age.

"A Proposal for enlarging the Subscription for the Collections of the Historical Society.

"TO THE PUBLIC.

"Ever since the institution of the Society, it has been their invariable aim to pursue the objects for which they associated, — namely, to *collect, preserve, and communicate* materials for American history. In collecting they have been very successful; in preserving they have been equally fortunate; and in communicating they have endeavored to select such articles for publication as in their opinion were important, and would probably be lost without this mode of preservation by multiplying the copies. This part of their design, however, has not been attended with all that success which they wished. They began with a weekly paper; after some time, it was changed to a monthly pamphlet; and, for the present year, they have published once in three months, — in the whole, about the same in quantity as before. The subscription at first was flattering; but the Society have for some time past been obliged to contract with their printer in such a manner as to indemnify him, and take on themselves a burden of expense to which, considering the smallness of their income (less than sixty dollars per annum), they do not find themselves equal.

"They now address the public, with a view to increase the subscription for their publications. Their exertions and attention are animated by motives of benevolence and public utility, and they promise to continue unremittingly to communicate such material as have already come, or may hereafter come, into their hands, which, from present appearances, they have reason to expect will be very large and interesting, provided that a generous subscription and an extensive circulation shall assure them encouragement.

"Let it be remembered that this Society is formed, not for the purpose of *waiting* for communications, but that the spirit of the Society is *active*; and, besides the Circular Letters, which are sent to every part of the continent and the islands, and which have been reprinted in various periodical publications and in several languages, it is strictly required of every member to search for information of every kind and in every form which may increase the stock of knowledge and enable the Society to be useful.

"When it is considered that these Collections will consist of historical and biographical memoirs, geographical and topographical descriptions, accounts of new discoveries and improvements in travels,

navigation, manufactures, and commerce, scarce and valuable pamphlets and manuscripts respecting the antiquities of America, and other subjects which daily arrest the attention of the curious and inquisitive, and promise a great increase of science and fund of entertainment, they cannot but hope that a generous and candid public will enable them to carry their views into effect, and assist them in their endeavors to do real service to the community.

“But if they should find themselves obliged to discontinue the publication of their Collections, it will be not for want of materials or exertion on their part, but for want of sufficient encouragement on the part of the public; and it will give them extreme pain to record this as one of the characteristics of the American people, that they are backward to encourage the publication of materials for the history of their own country.

“The Society propose that their Collections shall be published quarterly or oftener, as the quantity of matter shall increase; that each number shall consist of nine half-sheets, or seventy-two pages, large 8vo, stitched, as usual, in blue covers, at the very moderate price of twenty-five cents each; that the numbers, when printed, shall be advertised in the public papers, and that the subscribers residing in Boston shall have them delivered at their respective houses; that punctual payments be made by subscribers, either on the receipt of each number, or at least once in a year, at their option, and that new subscribers pay one half-dollar in advance. As some persons who may become subscribers will probably want the volumes which have been already published, some of which are become very scarce, they propose to reprint as many of them as may be required, and sell them at the same price in proportion as the future numbers, provided that the number of subscribers for whole sets or for any one volume should amount to three hundred.”

The efforts now made to strengthen the hands of the Society by aid to their publications do not appear to have been as fruitful of results as could have been desired. Indeed, the Committee appointed at a meeting in December of this year, “to consider the mode of publishing the Collections of the Society,” reported, in April following, “that it is not expedient to continue the publication at present.” The issuing of the Col-

lections, therefore, for the years 1796 and 1797 was suspended. A renewed effort in the mean time to increase their funds would seem to have been more successful, for, at the meeting in December, a Committee, previously appointed, reported that it was expedient to continue the publications of the Society; whereupon it was voted to print a volume in quarterly parts, beginning in January, 1798. This constitutes the fifth volume of the Society,—the last volume issued in parts or numbers. The sixth volume, for 1799,—that is, the volume printed in that year,—bore the date “1800” upon the title-page. That for 1800 bore upon its title “1801.” Vol. VIII., the first volume numbered upon the title-page, bore date, “1802”; and Vol. IX., “1804.”

But their financial embarrassments were not at an end. The sale of the publications was quite inadequate to supply their needs for continuing the work. Some of the earlier volumes, issued in monthly parts, were wanting to make up complete sets, and it was very desirable to have them reprinted, but the means were wanting. The yearly assessments were small, and these were not always promptly paid. Five years, therefore, elapsed from the publication of Vol. IX., in 1804, before the tenth volume, completing the first decade or series, appeared, in 1809; with a Chronological Table, General Index, Index of Authors, Laws of the Society, and List of Members, prepared principally by Dr. Freeman.

Without dwelling further upon such details, it may be added that the volumes of Collections, for a considerable number of years afterward, made their appearance with no greater regularity than had marked the earlier issues. Sometimes three or four volumes would appear in as many years, and then an interval of three, four,

or five years would occur before another was prepared. Other causes than those referred to may have occasionally interposed. The volumes in the first four decades were issued on an average of about one volume in two years. The later volumes have appeared much oftener. Since the endowment of the Society with a fund for publishing the Collections, they have been enabled to publish to a greater extent; each of the last thirteen volumes embracing about double the quantity of matter contained in any preceding volume. The volumes of Proceedings, printed principally from a fund for that purpose, have made their appearance at more regular intervals. But some of these details do not strictly belong to the period of which we are now writing.

The Committee thought it was desirable to include in this volume the portraits of the ten original members of the Society, so far as they could be found. We have been successful in procuring all but the portrait of Mr. Baylies, of whom, it is believed, none exists,—his granddaughter reporting that he never would consent to have his picture taken.

These portraits, with one exception, have been prepared by means of the heliotype process, by the "Heliotype Printing Company" of this city. The portrait of Dr. Belknap is from a picture originally taken from a red-chalk drawing in the Society's possession. That of Dr. Eliot is from an oil painting belonging to the Society, taken by a Boston artist, named King, in 1779, when the subject of it was twenty-five years of age. That of Dr. Thacher is taken from a small, simple wood-engraving, published, in 1806, in the third volume of the "Polyanthos," first series. The portrait of William Tudor is from an oil painting by Stuart, in possession

of Mr. Robert Hallowell Gardiner, of Gardiner, Maine, whose valuable assistance in aid of our endeavors to secure a good representation of the original deserves our warmest acknowledgments. The portrait of Judge Winthrop is from a miniature in the possession of his great-niece, Mrs. J. J. De Wolf, of Providence, Rhode Island. That of Dr. Freeman is from a lithographic picture hanging in the study of King's Chapel, originally taken from an oil painting by Stuart, now in the possession of Mr. Joseph Coolidge, of this city. That of Judge Minot is from an oil portrait by Gullager, a Boston artist, in possession of his grandson, Mr. George R. Minot, of Boston, to whom the thanks of the Society are due for a fine photograph of the picture for the Society's Cabinet. The picture of Mr. Wallcut is from a silhouette, presented to the Society some years ago by his nephew, the Rev. Robert Folger Wallcut, of this city. The portrait of Governor Sullivan, the first President of the Society, placed as a frontispiece to the volume, is a steel engraving, originally prepared for a memoir by his grandson, Mr. Thomas C. Amory, from the original Stuart portrait, now hanging in the Society's Library. The steel plate was generously placed at the Society's disposal for this purpose by Mr. Amory.

Fac-similes of the handwriting of each of the ten original members are placed, in most instances, with the portraits of those members. A letter of Mr. Baylies, of whom there is no portrait, is placed at p. 246. A *fac-simile* of the first page of the original records of the Society, in Secretary Wallcut's hand, is placed in the volume at the beginning of that page.

Portraits of the Presidents of the Society have also been included in the work. The portrait of Governor

Sullivan, the first President, has already been mentioned in the list of original members. That of Governor Gore, the second President, is a heliotype from an oil painting, by Trumbull, belonging to the Society. That of Judge Davis, the third President, is a heliotype from an oil painting, by Cole, also in the Society's possession. The portraits of Lieutenant-Governor Winthrop and Mr. Savage will appear in the next volume.

Pictures of the buildings in which the Society was privileged to occupy an apartment for its Library and Cabinet, from the earliest period to the present, are given, so far as they could be found. Of the first building, the "Manufactory House," so called, a building of some historical note, no representation has been found. A picture of Faneuil Hall, before its enlargement in 1806, is given from an engraving of it in the "Massachusetts Magazine," for March, 1789, as, in the north-west corner of that building, in the attic, a small apartment was occupied by the Society for about two years. A picture of the Tontine Crescent, on the south side of Franklin Place, is also given from an engraving of it in the "Massachusetts Magazine" for March, 1794. Here the Society, in the upper room, over the Arch, kept its Library and Cabinet, and held its meetings, for thirty-nine years. The Tontine Crescent has now passed away. A picture of the building erected by the Provident Institution for Savings on Tremont Street (on the Society's present location), apartments in which the Society purchased and removed to in 1833, is also included. This building was taken down in 1872, and the present structure erected upon the old spot, the first meeting in which was held by the Society in April, 1873.

Two additional portraits of members are given to

accompany their memoirs; namely, that of William Tudor, Jr., from an original Stuart, in possession of Mr. Robert H. Gardiner, of Gardiner, Maine, and that of Governor Strong, a steel engraving from a picture by Stuart, in possession of A. C. Thompson, D.D., of Roxbury.

References in foot-notes have been made to those memoirs of deceased members which already have been published in the Society's Collections. On the following page is a list of deceased Resident Members, down to the year 1833, whose memoirs, never having appeared in the Society's publications, have been prepared for this volume, and will be found at the pages indicated. This is followed by a list of the illustrations in the volume; and also lists of the Resident Members and Corresponding Members, from the institution of the Society down to the year 1855.

We cannot omit, in conclusion, to acknowledge here the Society's indebtedness to the Recording Secretary, Mr. George Dexter, for preparing, as a labor of love, the excellent index to this volume.

CHARLES DEANE, } *Committee of*
CHARLES C. SMITH, } *Publication.*

Boston, April 10, 1879.